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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY	Czechoslovakia	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Training at the Preparatory Flight School, Dolny Kubin	DATE DISTR.	14 May 1953
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This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

Admission Requirements

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1. The Preparatory Flight School (Letecka pripravna skola - LPS) at Dolny Kubin ~~/4912N-1918E/~~ was the Pre-Flight Training Center for Aviation Cadets of the Czechoslovak Air Force in Czechoslovakia. This school, as well as all other schools mentioned below, was under the command of the Flying School Headquarters (Letecke Uciliste - LU) located at Prostejov ~~/4928N-1707E/~~. Four categories of cadets were accepted for the aviation cadet program and were trained at Dolny Kubin. The first group were those young men who were accepted directly from civilian life, with no previous military training. The second category were young men accepted from civilian life who had attended a military preparatory school, namely the Officers' Candidate School for Youths (Skola Dusejnickeho Dorostu - SDD) and the Zizka School (Zizkova Skola - ZS). The third category consisted of young men serving in the armed forces and the fourth category consisted of young women serving in the Air Force. However, the entry requirements or qualifications were identical for all four categories. The minimum age was 17 and the maximum was 20. All applicants for cadet training were required to have had a minimum of nine years of elementary education. (In 1946 or 1947 a new law was promulgated whereby nine years' minimum education was required.) The vital statistics concerning each applicant, his grades at his last school, physical examination by a State doctor, and police clearance were essential. Applicants were required to sign an affidavit certifying that they would remain on active duty for a period at least three times the period spent in cadet training, if accepted. This document was countersigned and stamped with an official seal by a notary public. After the application was submitted, a background investigation was conducted by the OBZ Counterintelligence, primarily for political clearance. If the applicant was accepted, he was notified to report to the Czechoslovak Air Force Medical Examination Station, Dejvice Klecanova #1, Prague (Lekarska Vysetrovaci Stanice, Ceskoslovenskeho Letectva, Praha, Dejvice Klecanovi) for physical and aptitude examinations. the examination lasted

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a day and a half and the applicant had to be in prime physical condition. The mental examination was actually an aptitude test which included approximately 20 psycho-motor tests and 30 time-limit general-knowledge examinations. A high IQ was not required, for it was believed that an applicant who showed adaptability was as good or better than one with a high IQ.

Each test was graded immediately, and if the applicant failed the test, he was disqualified. After successfully completing the physical and mental examination, the applicant waited from 6 to 12 weeks before he was notified to report to the cadet school. 25X1

2. There were four categories of cadets:

a. First Category - This group of cadets comprised those young men who were accepted directly from civilian life with no previous military experience. There were approximately 240 men, divided into two cadet companies. They were required to complete nine months of pre-flight training which began on 15 October and ended on 30 June. During this period, this group was given basic military training and ground school instruction. At the completion of this phase of training one company (120 men) was sent to Olomouc /4935N-1715E/ and the other company to Presov for a period of six months. At Olomouc and Presov, the training consisted of ground school and flight training (dual and solo), in Trener 105 single-engine aircraft at Olomouc and in Bkr 106 single-engine aircraft at Presov. They were also given ground operation training in the Arada 102 single-engine aircraft (taxiing and engine run-ups). At the conclusion of that phase of training at Olomouc and Presov, one company of cadets proceeded to Zvolen /4835N-1908E/ and the other to Piestany, /4836N-1750E/ where they continued ground school instruction and flight training (dual and solo) in the Arada 102 single-engine trainer. They were also given ground operation training in the CS-199 single-engine dual-controlled fighter trainer (Cviony Stihac), a World War II ME-109. When this phase was concluded, both companies, from Zvolen and Piestany, were sent to Prostějov, where they continued ground school instruction, flight training (dual and solo), and were taught fighter tactics and gunnery. During the first three months of training at Prostějov, the cadets were screened and those meeting certain qualifications, were sent to Prerov /4927N-1727E/ where the selected group was trained in MIG-15 type jet aircraft. 25X1

The remaining cadets, those not selected, remained at Prostějov and continued their training in gunnery and fighter tactics for another three months. At the conclusion of that period, they graduated as fighter pilots, were given the rank of lieutenant, and were sent to various airfields. 25X1

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- b. Second Category - This group of cadets comprised those young men who had attended either the Officers' Candidate School for Youths or the Zizka School. The training of this group differed from that of the first category in that they were not given so much basic military training and that the time spent in the pre-flight phase was only six months, which began in July and ended in December of every year. There were approximately 240 men, divided into two cadet companies, and once the pre-flight training was completed they followed exactly the same pattern of training as did those in the first category. The SDD was a military preparatory school for students who had completed nine years of education. This school offered a one year course in academic subjects and military training. It prepared the students for further study at either Army or Air Force academies. Upon completion of the course, the students could volunteer for Air Force flight training but were required to meet the same requirements as civilian applicants. Should they not meet the set requirements for flight training, they could volunteer for other officer candidate schools. The ZS was the same type of military preparatory school except that it offered a four year course in academic and military subjects. Both these schools were located in various cities throughout Czechoslovakia.

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- c. Third Category - This group of cadets were young men serving in the Armed Forces who volunteered for flight training. The training of this group was identical to that of the first category except that they were given no basic military training, less military training, and the period of time at pre-flight training was only three months, from April to June. There were only 35 cadets in this group and once they had completed the pre-flight phase they were divided and followed the same pattern as the first two categories did.
- d. Fourth Category - This group consisted of 35 women who had been serving in the Air Force and had completed basic military training at Zamberk 5006N-1628E7. These women cadets were required to maintain the same academic schedule as those in the first category except that they received very little military training and all the ground school courses were shortened. Their entire stay at Dolny Kubin was three months. At the completion of pre-flight training they proceeded to Prostějov where they remained for 21 months. At Prostějov they continued ground school instruction and were given flight training in the Trener 105, Bikr 106, Sokol (all single-engine trainers) and the Aero 45, a twin-engine trainer. The primary objective was to train them as courier and reconnaissance pilots.

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3. The daily schedule from Monday to Saturday was as follows:

- 0530 Reveille: The charge of Quarters and the bugle wakened the cadets, who dressed in physical training shorts.
- 0535-0605 Physical Training: Cadets fell out by platoons and participated by platoon in physical training or double timed around the casern. Physical training was administered six days a week regardless of weather conditions.
- 0605-0620 Morning Cleanup: This period was utilized for cleaning of quarters, making of beds, and personal toilet.
- 0620-0630 Morning Inspection: The cadets fell out by platoons in company formation and double timed to the Practice Taxi Area, where an inspection was held by the first sergeant of the company for personal cleanliness and state of uniform. From this area the students were double timed to the mess hall.

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0630-0650 Breakfast: Here the cadets were marched in by platoons and seated 12 to a table. Cadets were assigned to specific tables. The breakfast menu consisted of black bread, one cup of substitute coffee, and one square of butter or marmalade. After breakfast they assembled by platoons outside the mess hall.

0650-0700 Assembling for Class: Students double timed to their first class.

0700-0745 1st Class Period

0750-0835 2nd Class Period

0840-0925 3rd Class Period: A five minute break was given to the students between classes.

0925-0945 Snack: consisted of coffee, black bread, butter or marmalade.

0945-1030 4th Class Period

1035-1120 5th Class Period

1125-1210 6th Class Period

1215-1300 7th Class Period

1300-1340 Dinner: The dinner menu consisted of soup, potatoes or dumplings, gravy and sometimes meat. Meat was served about three times weekly in small portions in the form of stew.

1350-1520 Afternoon Rest: Cadets were required to rest; silence was strictly enforced, and reading was strictly prohibited.

1530-1600 Afternoon Training: Military drill with rifles, gas mask training, political training, and cleaning of weapons. 25X1

1605-1835 Individual Study: A study period utilized for review of subjects covered during the day and preparation for subjects to be covered the next day. Individual studying was not approved for this period, as the school believed that the practice of each man studying by himself would lead to a spirit of self-advancement. Collective studying was done in groups composed of three or four cadets. A leader chosen from among the students was placed in charge of each group. The leader was held responsible for the academic progress of the group. If a member of the group received an unsatisfactory grade in a subject the leader would have one point deducted from his grade in that subject.

1835-1855 Day's Critique: A summary of delinquencies discovered in the morning personal inspection, review of subjects covered and grades received during the day, and suggestions on how to improve and attain higher grades in subjects which were unsatisfactory. After the critique, one of the students was required to read the current Communist Party line. The students did not take this reading seriously and had one thought in mind "Let's get it over with so we can eat supper".

1900-1920 Supper: The menu consisted of potatoes or dumplings, black bread, and gravy. Fresh milk was never served at any of the meals. Sour milk was served at various times during the summer months. [redacted] the 25X1 milk had either soured at the school or at a dairy prior to delivery and was given to the students rather than dispose of it.

1920-2030 Group Activity: Period used for group participation in singing, chess playing, or gymnastics.

2030-2130 Free Period: This period was used by the cadets for the writing of letters, conversing, chess playing, and reading of magazines and books.

2130-2150 Evening Roll Call: The cadets fell out by platoons in company formation for reading of the roll call roster and reading of the duty roster (KP and guard duty) for the following day.

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- 2150-2210 Retreat Parade: Cadets were marched to the Taxi Area and then paraded around this area singing songs.
- 2210-2225 Tattoo: This period was utilized by the students for personal toilet, cleaning of uniforms, and preparation for Taps.
- 2230 Taps: Lights were extinguished and the students had to be in bed. Bed check followed.

4. The class periods remained the same daily. (Cadets who missed school because of illness or any other reason had to make up the class hours lost.) The following subjects were taught during these class hours.

Aircraft Power Plant and Aircraft:

The students studied the construction of a plane (approximately 200 hours) specializing on the Bkr-106 and the Trener-105. Complete and detailed instructions were given on the nomenclature and functions of parts of these aircraft. After completion of this phase, advanced special instructions were given on the nomenclature and function of parts of the Minor-M4-III engine. Ratings of fuels and processing of fuels were also studied in this phase. The cadets were told that 73 octane gasoline was used for all aircraft. Cockpit procedures were also covered and consisted of visual inspection procedure, starting of motor, correct usage of throttle, engine operation, and taxiing procedure.

Navigation:

Approximately 200 hours: Map projections, map reading, compass variation deviation, drift computation, pilotage, flight instruments, and engine instruments were covered during this course. Map projections used were the Mercator, Lambert-Policonical, Gallova and Boneova. The Mercator Chart was the most commonly used in Czechoslovakia.

Aerodynamics; Theory of Flight:

Approximately 120 hours: Profile of airfoil, flow of air around airfoil, effect of air speed on airfoil, Reynolds principle of airfoil, principle of the airfoil, theory of the propeller, theory of flaps, principle of bi-plane off-set wings, and principle of the Venturi and Pitot tubes were the subjects covered.

Meteorology:

Approximately 100 hours: Study of weather movements and cloud formations, warm and cold air current effects, formation of fog, movement of air currents between land and water, movement of low and high pressure areas, occluded frontal systems, weather maps, icing conditions, preventive measures against icing, conversion of milebars to millimeters, Synop and Avia weather forecasts (in code of five digits or symbols), and composition of air space above earth surfaces.

Communications:

Approximately 60 hours: Electronics, Morse code-30 letters minimum. Theory of radar, radio, and voice procedure. Czech radio procedure was taught for three months and Russian radio procedure for three months.

Topography:

Approximately 140 hours: Terrain contour, water drainage, prominent land marks, map reading, terrain features. Special emphasis was placed on landmarks and features in East Germany and Austria. Terrain features in Russia and Poland were also studied.

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Air Force Regulations:

Approximately 60 hours: general Air Force regulations, caserne regulations, military courtesy, and military discipline.

Infantry Tactics:

Approximately 200 hours: Combat infantry training by squad, platoon, and company, assault and defensive tactics, squad and platoon leaders training, and practical bayonet training.

this was an important phase of training, as a situation might occur where Air Force personnel would be required to defend an airfield against enemy attack. Manual of arms rifle and QZ submachine gun 9 mm. model 23. 25X1

Mathematics:

Mathematics starting from simple arithmetic, algebra, geometry, trigonometry, calculus; the first three months were spent in studying mathematics from arithmetic to algebra.

Political Preparation:

Approximately 230 hours: Political preparation was the cadets' most important subject. A cadet had to pass successfully the political course regardless of other academic grades. If a cadet failed to pass this course he was sent to the Auxiliary Technical Battalion. He was required to serve the normal two years duty with the Battalion plus three times the amount of time served as a cadet prior to failure of the course. Cadets upon entry in the battalion were reduced to the lowest rank without a future opportunity for advancement in grade. The following subjects were taught in the political course: Communist Manifesto, History of the Bolshevik Party, Theory of Dialectic Materialism, and Monopolies of the Capitalist World.

Language:

Approximately 70 hours: Cadets were taught the Russian language and the history of Russia.

Chemical Warfare Material:

Approximately 50 hours: Cadets studied the gas mask and the following types of gases: choking gases, tear gases, poisonous gases, blistering gases. These included

Chloropicrin (Chlorpikrid):

Mustard Gas (Yperit): Blistering and lung irritant. Odor of garlic, onions, or horse-radish. 25X1

N Mustard Gas (Yperit N): Blistering and lung irritant. This gas was odorless.

Brombenzylcyanide BBC (Brombenzylkyanid):

Chlorine (Chlor):

Adamsite I:

Adamsite II:

Clark I:

Clark II:

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The cadets studied approximately 15 gases.

The cadets received training on protective measures against gases with impregnated clothing. Light impregnated clothing and heavy impregnated clothing were used. Light clothing was used against lighter gases and heavy clothing against the heavier type gases.

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Measures were taught on marking areas saturated with gas. These areas were marked off with red stakes approximately 50 cm. high with a yellow flag marked with black skull and cross bones placed approximately one meter to five meters apart. Cadets were required to enter gas chambers filled with tear or choking gas with gas masks. Gas mask training consisted of checking the gas masks for leaks and correct method of putting on and taking off the mask. The gas mask was of German origin.

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This mask had the filter attached to the face piece. The filter used on this mask had a dot of blue paint on the front of the filter. This mark was used to denote the different type of filters against the different types of gases.

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This type of mask had a tin container that was used as a gas mask carrier fastened with a cloth strap slung over the left shoulder. Instructions were also given in the use of an impregnated shelter made of a rectangular shaped cloth-like cloak. The cloak was impregnated with a lacquer-like solution which gave it a glossy appearance. These cloaks were of two colors, yellow and black. The students were told that one was used as a protection against spray or blistering gases.

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The cloak was thrown over the head and body as a protection against spray gases. The gas mask was worn underneath the cloak. The cloak had no opening for vision. The cloak was also used to cover gas contaminated ground, providing safe passage over a contaminated area.

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Familiarization With and Firing of Weapons:

Approximately 70 hours: The cadets were taught nomenclature, functions of parts, and ballistics of the following weapons: rifle 7.92 mm. model 27; CZ submachine gun 9 mm. model 23; CZ light machine gun 7.92 mm. model 26; German heavy machine gun 7.92 mm.; German pistol P-38 9 mm.; and German pistol Parabol, 9 mm. Each cadet was required to fire for record and qualify with the above weapons. Cadets also received familiarization firing and nomenclature with the following weapons: Panzerfaust, heavy machine gun (Maxim), and hand grenades. This course included instruction on identification, silhouettes, armor, vulnerable points, firing power, maneuverability, and capabilities of the American, English, and French tanks. Identification of the Czech and Russian tanks by silhouettes was also taught.

Aerial Hygiene:

Approximately 10 hours: Study of effects on the human anatomy while in flight, blackouts, breathing of oxygen, and personal flying equipment. Pressure chamber exercises were conducted.

Parachute Training Exercises:

Approximately 40 hours: The cadets took theoretical training on bailing out of aircraft, guiding a parachute, alighting procedure, delayed parachute jumps, proper body movements while in fall, and maintenance of the parachute, including packing of the chute. Practical training consisted of: assimilating actual shock received on contact with the ground and correct roll procedure after contact with the ground. Towers graduated from one meter to six meters in height were used for the teaching of these procedures.

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Flying Regulations:

Approximately 30 hours: Air traffic control and visual signal aids which consisted of flares (red, yellow, and green) and panels. A book called Kulp contained all air traffic and control regulations. The same book was used in the instruction of Russian Air Traffic and Control Regulations.

5. Cadets' schedule on Saturday and Sunday was as follows: The classes for Saturday ended at 1300 hours. Dinner was served from 1300 to 1350. 1350-1500: Preparation period for cleanup details. 1500-1830: Period utilized for cleaning of quarters and the casern. 1830: Inspection of quarters. 1900-1920: Supper. Sunday was used as a day of rest. Passes were given only to those cadets with very satisfactory grades in all their subjects and having no delinquency reports. Only 10 cadets of the company (120) were granted a pass, and these were granted approximately one pass a month. Pass hours for Saturday were 1900-2300; for Sundays, 1500-2200. Some cadets did not receive a pass for as long as three months.

6. Uniforms See Annex A and B were as follows:

Male Cadet Winter Field Uniform:

Cotton cloth, blue-gray, long trousers bloused over field boots with a large pocket sewed on outside of left front slightly above the knee along the thigh. Blouse: type 21, gray-blue which could be worn open-collar style or as a choke collar. Upper pockets sewed on the outside, lower pockets inside. Black leather belt approximately five centimeters wide fastened with a brass buckle with the Czechoslovak lion. The blouse had oxidized buttons. All cadets wore a whistle fastened at the shoulder strap button and tucked into the left upper pocket of the blouse. The whistle was fastened by a green cord. Flight cap: blue-gray with brass Czechoslovak lion insignia worn on left front. Boots: approximately 20 cm. high with hob nailed soles, black in color.

Male Cadet Summer Field Uniform:

The entire uniform was the same as the winter field uniform with the exception of the cloth, which was smoother in appearance and of lighter material. The winter or summer uniforms were worn by the cadets at all times except when on pass or special parades.

Dress Uniform:

Type 48, cotton fabric or cloth same as winter field uniform except that the texture was of a higher quality. Blouse: blue-gray, open collar, top or lower pockets sewed on outside, with shiny brass buttons, without whistle. Shoulder boards: background light blue, one centimeter wide gold border on top of shoulder board, outer side edge and bottom of black cloth material, brass winged propeller and one centimeter wide cadet rank stripe of gold cloth. Light blue collar tabs were worn on the blouse denoting the rank of "cadet". Service stripes were worn approximately five centimeters from bottom edge of sleeve. A service stripe was worn for each year the cadet served. Long trousers: blue-gray, two-millimeter light blue strip worn on outer seams of trousers; black low cut oxfords. Light blue shirt, black necktie. Blouse was the same as that worn by the Czechoslovak commissioned officers. Service cap: blue-gray with black bill, a light blue stripe approximately two millimeters wide encircled the outer top rim. Commissioned officers wore the same cap. Blue-gray leather finger gloves were worn with the dress uniform. Overcoat: blue-gray, lined, shiny brass buttons, inside pockets with outside flaps. The required length was 30 cm. from the ground. The shoulder boards, service stripes, and collar tabs worn on overcoat were slightly larger than those worn on the blouse. A dark muffler was worn with the overcoat.

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Female Cadet Uniform:

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The summer field and winter uniforms, including the cap and hob-nailed shoes were the same as worn by the male cadets except that the sergeant rank was worn as well as the cadet rank. The dress uniform was the same as the male cadet uniform, except that a skirt was substituted for the trousers. The dress shoulder boards contained the winged propeller, cadet rank, and the additional sergeant rank. The female cadet wore black low shoes and long sheer, nylon-like stockings. The overcoat was the same and worn the same way as that of the male cadets.

Morale

7. The morale of the cadets was low; five to six cadets were confined to the guard house daily for disciplinary punishment resulting from failure to salute, dirty or rusty rifles, tardiness, failure to report for duty details, or failure to make beds properly.

the following examples of punishment or confinement:

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Failure to salute: 1-10 days

Dirty Rifle: 5-30 days

Failure to make bed properly after receiving several warnings: 1-15 days

There were three cases of desertion [] at Dolny Kubin. More cadets would desert, but they feared being assigned to the Auxiliary Technical Battalion or being caught or killed crossing the border. The cadets were warned that the borders were highly fortified with armed guards and laid with mine fields.

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The majority of the cadets were dissatisfied with the food. There were 6 cadets out of a company of 120 who developed TB at Dolny Kubin. 20 out of the class of 240 [] were dismissed for physical and academic reasons.

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ANNEXES

A: [] Sketch of the Male and Female Dress Blouse, Czech Air Force

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B: [] Sketch of the Male and Female Cadet Shoulder Boards and Collar Tabs

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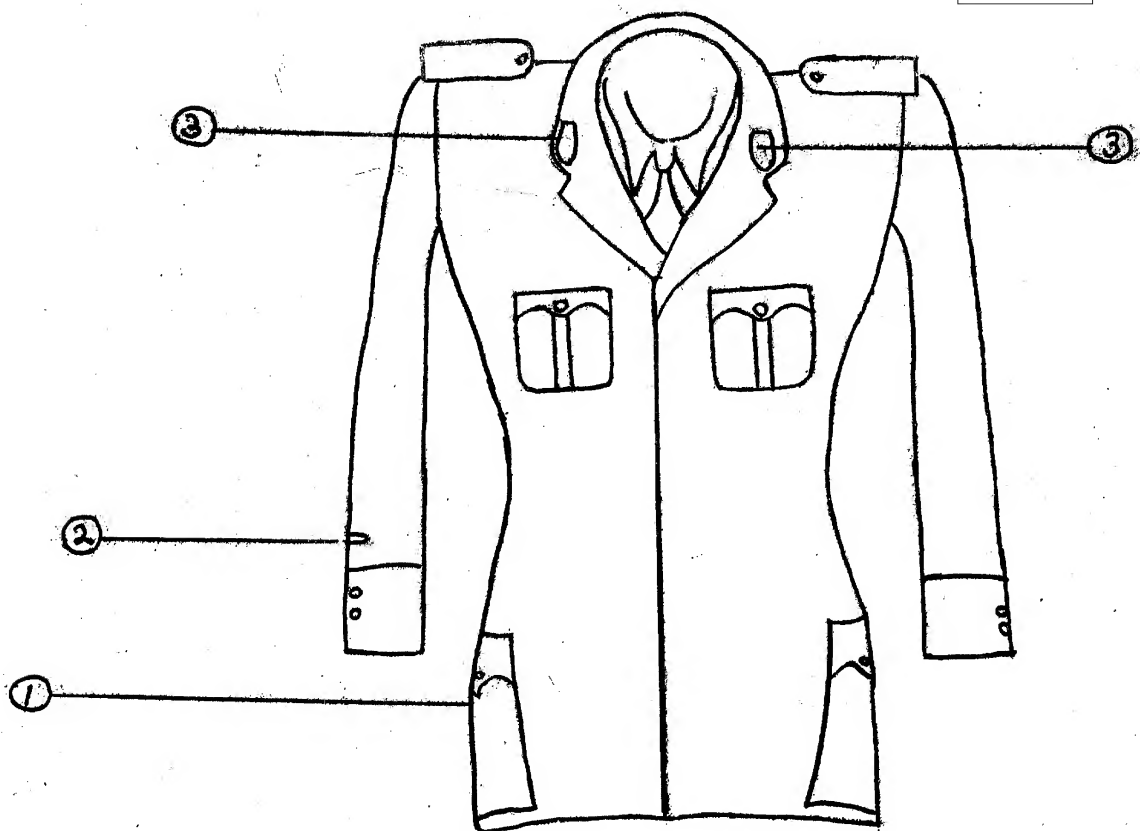
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Sketch of the Male and Female Dress Blouse, Czech Air Force

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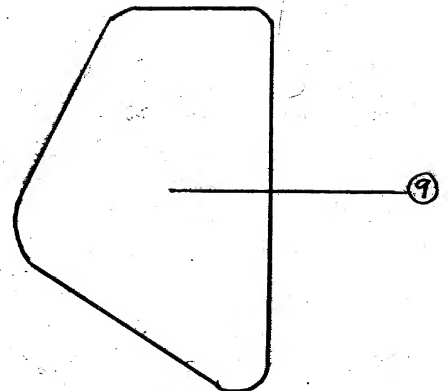
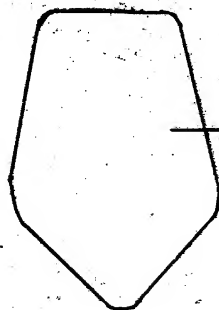
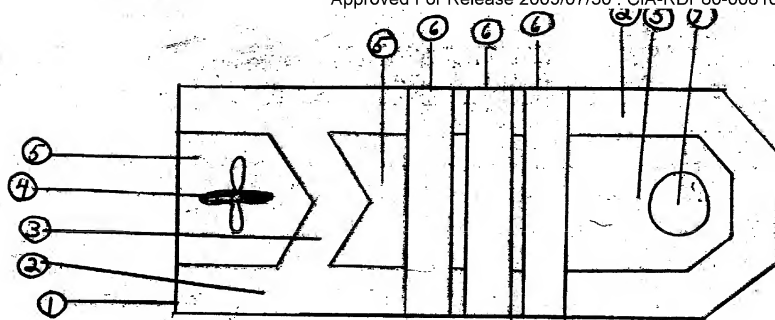
Legend

1. Blouse: blue-gray
2. Stripe, service: gold cloth, one centimeter by five centimeters
3. Collar tabs: light blue, three centimeters by five centimeters

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ANNEX B

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Sketch of the Male and Female Shoulder Boards and Collar Tabs

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ANNEX B (Cont'd)

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Legend

1. Cadet Shoulder Board
2. Boarder trim, gold cloth
3. Gold cadet rank
4. Winged propeller, brass
5. Background, light blue
6. Non-commissioned stripes, sergeants, yellow cloth, worn by the female cadets only.
7. Brass button
8. Collar Tabs (blouse) light blue, reinforced stiff cloth, approximately 3 cm. x 5 cm.
9. Collar Tabs (overcoat) light blue, reinforced stiff cloth, approximately 5 cm. x 8 cm.

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